Modern Greek Studies Foundation

Μαντατοφόρος*

The Nikos Kazantzakis Chair

Center for Modern Greek Studies
San Francisco State University

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Sophia Bilides Performs at San Francisco State University

Folk singer and musician ***Sophia Bilides***

Noted folk singer, musician and instructor ***Sophia Bilides*** and her ensemble will perform at San Francisco State University on Saturday, February 27. Co-sponsored by the ***Center for Modern Greek Studies*** and the ***Hellenic Traditional Arts Institute***, the concert will take place at Knuth Hall, 8 PM, in the Creative Arts building on the SFSU campus. The event marks her only Bay Area appearance on this leg of her tour.

Ms. Bilides, who in addition to singing plays the *santouri*, will be accompanied by a four piece ensemble, including Tom Babbin (*laouto*), Rohan Gregory (*violi*), Paul Ohanesian (*doumbek*) and George Stathos (*clarino*). Her performance will feature songs from the mainland, island and Asian Minor traditions of Greece, including those in the *Tsamika* and *Smyrnaika* vocal traditions, for which she is renown. Folk ballads and *Rembetika* will further enhance the planned repertoire.

Door admission is $12 general and $5 for students. Please call the Center (415-338-1892) or the Hellenic Traditional Arts Institute (415-570-2209) for additional information.

Rosemary Barron Teaches Lent Cooking *Class*

Just in time for Greek Easter (April 18), ***Peloponnese Foods*** and the ***Center***, in cooperation with the ***Cathedral of the Ascension*** in Oakland, will present noted cookbook author, ***Rosemary Barron***, in a class on *Lent Cooking*. Space is limited for this one-evening session, which will take place on February 11 at 7PM and includes dinner and estate bottled Greek wines.

Ms. Barron, author of *The Flavors of Greece* and the forthcoming *The Greek Mezé Table* is active in the States, Great Britain and in Greece, having devoted her work, as author and instructor, to Mediterranean cuisine. In addition to her cookbooks, she founded the Kandra Cooking Schools of Crete and Santorini.

The February 11 cooking demonstration will feature recipes of the nuns of the Ormelia Monastery in the Halkidiki Peninsula. Registration is $40 per person, meal included, with proceeds to be donated to the Kazantzakis Chair at San Francisco State University.

To reserve space or for additional information, please call Peloponnese at 510-839-8153 or the Center at 415-338-1892.

An Excerpt from Nikos Kazantzakis' *Report to Greco* ...for Greek Easter

At life's most decisive moment — when the young man pushes aside the multitude of possibilities open to him, selects one and one only, identifies his destiny with it, and enters adulthood — at that moment three Cretan incidents saved (no, did not save; attempted to save) my soul. Perhaps they will save other souls, and therefore I will be forgiven if I cite them. They are very simple, with a thick peasant rind; but whoever can crack this rind will taste three mouthfuls of solid, leonine brains.

...(The third incident) Easter Sunday, shortly before daybreak. In the mountains of Crete, Father Kaphâtos races from village to village resurrecting Christ with mercurial speed because there are many villages having only this one priest, and he must perform the resurrection in all of them before daybreak. Sleeves rolled up, weighted with his vestments and the heavy silver-bound Bible, he clambers over the rocky furze-covered mountains, runs through the holy night gasping for breath, reaches one village, shouts the Christos anesti *— Christ is risen — and then dashes to the next village, his tongue hanging from his mouth.*

In the final village, a little hamlet wedged between two crags, the people are assembled in the diminutive church. They have lighted the cressets and adorned the icons and portal with laurels and myrtles they carried from the ravine. Their candles remain unlit in their hands; they are waiting for the Great Word to come so that they can light them.

Just then they hear a crunching of pebbles in the silence, as though a horse were hastily climbing the mountainside and the stones cascading down.

"He's coming! He's coming!"

They all fly outside. The east is already tinted with rose; the skies are laughing. Heavy breaths are heard, the sheep dogs bark with joy, and then all at once from behind a frizzled oak — shirt unbuttoned, drenched with sweat, flushed from running, engrossed in the many Christs he has resurrected — out springs old, black, dwarfish Father Kaphâtos, his unbraided hair flowing.

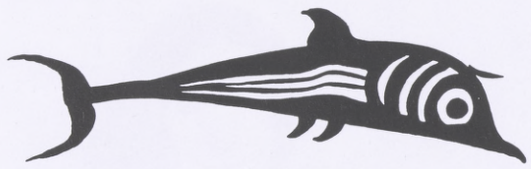
The sun is at that very instant emerging from behind the mountain's crest. Taking a leap, the priest lands in front of the villagers and spreads his arms:

*'*Christos anéstakas, *lads!" he shouts.*

The familiar, trite word anesti *had suddenly seemed small, cheap, wretched to him; it was incapable of containing the Great News. The word had broadened and proliferated on the priest's lips. Linguistic laws had given way and cracked in the wake of the soul's great impetus, new laws were created, and lo! in creating the new word, this morning, the old Cretan felt for the first time that he was truly resurrecting Christ — all of Him, in every inch of His great stature.*

...Love of liberty, the refusal to accept your soul's enslavement, not even in exchange for paradise; stalwart games over and above love and pain, over and above death; smashing even the most sacrosanct of the old molds when they are unable to contain you any longer — these are the three great cries of Crete.

-- From ***Report to Greco***, by Nikos Kazantzakis
translated by *Peter Bien*



172nd Anniversary of the Independence of Greece Celebration -- March 27

The ***United Hellenic American Societies' Independence Day*** celebration will take place in Oakland this year — at the hall of the Cathedral of the Ascension (address: 4700 Lincoln Avenue). The patriotic and cultural program will be held on March 27 and begins at 7:30 PM.

In light of recent developments in the Balkans, UHAS president ***George Konstantopoulos*** is urging societies and community members to attend this 172nd anniversary of independence celebration. The program, in the tradition of past celebrations, is dedicated to commemorating the anniversary and to re-affirming Hellenic culture and history. Reserve March 27 and plan to be at the cathedral hall early — the event has always drawn a large audience. Contact Titika Koplos (510-339-2947) for additional information.

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Poetry Reading by *Nicholas Samaras*

The ***Poetry Center*** of San Francisco State University and the Center, in cooperation with ***Holy Trinity Church***, will once again join forces to present a noted Greek-American writer. Poet ***Nicholas Samaras*** will read from his latest work, Hands of the Saddlemaker, on March 11 at 7:30 PM in the community hall of the church (999 Brotherhood Way, San Francisco). The volume, winner of the 1991 Yale Series of Younger Poets competition, features an imaginative and ambitious selection of writing.

The son of a Greek-Orthodox priest, Mr. Samaras was born in England and educated in the States. Presently, he is completing his doctorate in English and Creative Writing at the University of Denver. His work is founded on his international background and generates what poet James Dickey calls, "...a way of life utterly unlike the one he has just left; belonging, not-belonging, always brooding, wondering and passing-on." For this and his striking sense of language, he has received honors, including a New York Foundation for the Arts Poetry Fellowship and the Academy of American Poets Award.

Admission for the reading is $4 general, free for Poetry Center members. For additional information, please call the Center at 415-338-1892.

Nicholas Samaras as he appears on the cover of *Hands of the Saddlemaker*

Modern Productions of Ancient Greek Tragedies in the Bay Area

Two exciting modern productions of ancient Greek tragedies will open in the Bay Area in February. In San Francisco, the ***American Conservatory Theater*** will perform ***Timberlake Wertenbaker***'s translation of Sophocles' *Antigone*. Previews will run February 11-16 and the show will open February 17, all taking place at the Stage Door Theater, 420 Mason Street, San Francisco. Call 415-749-2ACT for more information.

At Stanford, as part of "Democracy 2500", a celebration of the 2500th anniversary of democracy, Euripides' *Suppliant Women* will have its professional U.S. premiere. Stanford's ***Lively Arts*** has organized this event, which will run February 16-28. Campus-wide forums will be held in conjunction with the run of the show to explore the relationship between drama and democracy. The founding of democracy and the first performance of a Greek tragedy occurred within the same time period, early in the 5th century BC.

Other scheduled venues include the Getty Museum in Malibu and the Folger Theater in Washington DC. While in Washington, the drama and dance link will continue with the simultaneous exhibit *Artifacts of Ancient Democracy* at the National Archives.

The tour will end with an August run in Delphi. A far-reaching and ambitious undertaking that ends where drama and democracy began, the production merits special historical significance.

Admission for the Stanford performances is $18 general. For more information call the Tresidder Union box office, 415-725-2787. Admission for ***Democritos*** members is $15, which has to be arranged with ***Dr. Harry Lefakis***, 408-993-8779.

Note: please also see our Calendar, page 4, for more information on show dates and times.

Theodorakis on Radio

On February 21 at 8 AM three radio stations will air *Pnevmatiko Emvatirio* ("March of the Spirit") by Mikis Theodorakis, based on a poem by Anghelos Sikelianos — KPFA, 94.1 FM and KPFB, 89.3, in Berkeley and KFCF 88.1 FM in Fresno. Originating at the KPFA studio, hosted by Mary Berg, the program is part of ***Dr. Alex Vavoulis***' radio series on contemporary Greek music.

Dated Material

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Calendar Recap of Present and Upcoming Events

Feb 4: Still time to join ***Effie Kalafatis'*** Intermediate Modern Greek class, held on the SFSU campus (meeting schedule: Tuesdays and Thursdays, from 3:35 PM to 4:50 PM)

Feb 11: ***Rosemary Barron***'s *Lent Cooking* class, Cathedral of the Ascension, Oakland (7 PM).

Feb 16-28: *Lively Art*'s production of ***Suppliant Women*** runs at Stanford's Memorial Auditorium, Palo Alto (8 PM, Tues.-Sat.; 2:30 PM, Sun.)

Feb 17: Opening of *American Conservatory Theater*'s ***Antigone***, (8 PM, Tues.-Sat.; 2 PM, Wed. and Sat. matinees; 3 PM Sun. matinee. Closes Apr. 4)

Feb 21: Broadcast of ***Pnevmatiko Emvatirio*** — KPFA, 94.1 FM and KPFB, 89.3, Berkeley and KFCF 88.1 FM, Fresno (8 AM)

Feb 27: ***Sophia Bilides*** performs at Knuth Hall, Creative Arts Building, SFSU (8 PM)

Mar 11: ***Nicholas Samaras'*** poetry reading at the community hall of Holy Trinity Church, San Francisco (7:30 PM)

Mar 27: ***172nd Anniversary of the Independence of Greece***, celebration — Cathedral of the Ascension, Oakland (7:30 PM)

Apr 18: ***Greek Easter*** — *KALO PASCHA!*

Join us today - your support is greatly appreciated!

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